



New River Channel

Grand Avenue to Skunk Creek and Paradise Shores

Issue 2: January 2004



Purpose

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District) and the City of Peoria are developing flood control improvements to New River from Grand Avenue to the Skunk Creek. In addition, a segment (approximately 800 feet) of New River adjacent to the Paradise Shores subdivision will also be improved. Bank protection, channelization, trails, and landscape enhancements will be visually consistent with the adjacent channel.

Design of the New River Channel improvements started in August 2003 to increase flood protection along the river. The improvements will also provide recreational connectivity, preserve and enhance vegetation and provide wildlife habitat. Engineers and landscape architects are working together to evaluate the project needs. A public meeting was held in October 2003 and input from the City of Peoria and the District was gathered.

New River Channel - A Connected Riparian Desert

Landscape characteristics of the project will include Palo Verde trees and native Sonoran Desert landscape. The lower level of the channel will have cottonwoods, willows and natural habitat. Materials will include river run rock and raw materials all recycled from the river, and hardscape materials will be designed to blend into the natural environment.

This project is intended to complement an overall regional trail system being developed on New River, Skunk Creek and other water courses in the West Valley. In order to create a continuous trail system, a pedestrian bridge across New River is needed. This pedestrian bridge will connect the west side of the river bank to the Rio Vista Park and the east bank.

Public and Community Comments

A public meeting and other community meetings have been held to gather input from the citizens in the area. The community's interests included a pedestrian bridge over New River, ensuring safety for trail users, and security of the residential areas adjacent to the project.

Overall, the proposed trail system was generally supported and the majority of the people would like to see the trails expanded to the east and north, and include lighting for the trail system.

Final Concepts

The New River Channel improvements will include bank stabilization, multi-use trails, an equestrian trail, seating rest areas, an earthen low-flow channel, and habitat restoration. Final concept exhibits for these improvements have been developed and are available for viewing at the District's web site listed on the following page. While the purpose of the project is to increase flood protection along the corridor, the intent of the aesthetic design is to blend the improvements with the natural environment, while creating a recreational trail system that provides links to the regional trail network and Rio Vista Park.



Project Newsletter

Flood Control District of Maricopa County

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors - District 4 - Max Wilson